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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Eric NYRET et al.

Confirmation no. 1950

Application No.: 10/784,040

Group Art Unit: 2825

Filed: February 20, 2004

Examiner: L. H. Malsawma

For: PREVENTIVE TREATMENT METHOD
FOR A MULTILAYER SEMICONDUCTOR
WAFER

Attorney Docket No.: 4717-10100

LETTER RE: PRIOR ART

BOX ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants note that US patent 5,233,218 to Miura is listed on a Search Report for the corresponding European patent application. The applicants and their attorneys and representatives have reviewed this reference and confirm that it is not material to the patentability of the present claims.

Since the Rules of Practice in Patent cases do not provide for the review of non-material references by the Examiner after a Notice of Allowance has been mailed, it is respectfully requested that this patent simply be placed in the file of this application.

No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this statement. Please charge any required fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

6-22-05

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Enclosures